

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed February 13, 2004. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 16-21 were pending in this Application. Claims 1-15 and 22-25 were previously cancelled by Applicants without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103. Claims 19-21 were allowed and Claims 17 and 18 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claim 17 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants have amended Claims 16 and 18 to further define various features of the invention. New Claims 26 and 27 have been added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 4,973,453 issued to Kenneth L. Agee ("Agee") in view of U.S. Patent 5,639,401 issued to Ludovicus Leonardus Gerardus Jacobs et al. ("Jacobs et al.").

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's consideration and indication that Claims 17 and 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 16 has been amended to include selected limitations from Claim 17. Applicants have amended Claim 18 to include selected limitations from Claim 16. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of Claims 16 and 18 as amended.

Information Disclosure Statements

Pursuant to Examiner's telephone conversation with Tracy Perez on March 24, 2004, Applicants respectfully submit herewith copies of the following references for Examiner's convenience and reconsideration:

1. Baird et al., "*Fischer-Tropsch Processes Investigated at the Pittsburgh Energy Technology Center since 1944*" (Reference "T" listed on PTO Form 1449 filed with Information Disclosure Statement on March 15, 2001).
2. J. H. Crowell et al., "*Fischer-Tropsch Oil Circulation Processes*" (Reference "U" listed on PTO Form 1449 filed with Information Disclosure Statement on March 15, 2001).
3. Zhao Yu-Long, et al., "*Concentration Profile of Reactants in Fe Catalysts for Slurry Fischer-Tropsch Synthesis*" (Reference "O" listed on PTO Form 1449 filed with Information Disclosure Statement on May 7, 2001).

These references were previously filed in the above mentioned Information Disclosure Statements and PTO Form 1449, however, were not considered since a copy of these non-patent documents were not available to the Examiner at the time. Copies of the related Information Disclosure Statement and PTO-1449 form filed on March 15, 2001 and May 7, 2001 and confirming postcard and Express Mail Label proving receipt by USPTO and mailing. are also enclosed for your review. Applicants appreciate Examiner's reconsideration of these references.

CONCLUSION

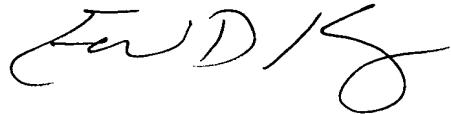
Applicants have now made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of Claims 16 and 18 as amended and new Claims 26 and 27.

Applicants enclose a check in the amount of \$258.00 for the three new independent claims. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 50-2148 of Baker Botts L.L.P. in order to effectuate this filing.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicants' attorney at 512.322.2688.

Respectfully submitted,

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SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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CUSTOMER ACCOUNT NO. **31625**

512.322.2688

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Date: May 12, 2004

Enclosure(s): 1. Check in the amount of \$258.00 for additional independent claims
2. Copies of references to be considered including copies of the related
Information Disclosure Statement, PTO-1449 form filed on March 15, 2001
and May 7, 2001 and confirming postcard and Express Mail Label proving
receipt by USPTO and mailing.